DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 420 423 PS 026 596

AUTHOR Leibowitz, Sue L.; Chates, Alan I.

TITLE Transition Project: Observing Early Childhood Classrooms.

INSTITUTION Alabama Univ., Birmingham. Civitan International Research

Center.

SPONS AGENCY Administration for Children, Youth, and Families (DHHS),

Washington, DC. Head Start Bureau.

PUB DATE 1998-04-00

NOTE 39p.; Roundtable Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of

the American Educational Research Association (San Diego,

CA, April 13-17, 1998).

CONTRACT .105-91-1541

PUB TYPE Reports - Evaluative (142) -- Speeches/Meeting Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS *Elementary School Students; Followup Studies; Longitudinal

Studies; *Outcomes of Education; Primary Education;

*Transitional Programs

IDENTIFIERS *Developmentally Appropriate Programs; Massachusetts

(Worcester); Project Head Start

ABSTRACT

This study evaluated the effect a developmentally appropriate curriculum, implemented as part of a Head Start Transition Project for public kindergarten through third grade to maintain and enhance the benefits attained by Head Start children and their families. Participating were two cohorts of students in demonstration and comparison classrooms from eight schools in Worchester, Massachusetts. Classroom observation data were collected at the end of each of the 5 years using the Assessment Profile for Early Childhood Programs: Research Version; the ADAPT: A Developmentally Appropriate Practice Template was added in Year 3. Children were followed from kindergarten through grade 3, with Cohort 1 beginning kindergarten in 1992 and Cohort 2 in 1993. At demonstration schools, monthly teacher in-service training was given during the first 2 years and additional funds were made available to purchase materials. Comparison schools did not receive any Transition Project resources, although some underwent considerable reform and received considerable classroom resources. Findings indicated that classrooms receiving resources to create developmentally appropriate classrooms and with a principal committed to the philosophy of developmentally appropriate practice were further advanced in providing a developmentally appropriate environment than classrooms which did not receive . or fully implement these resources. Further, there was a general decrease in the use of developmentally appropriate practices over the years, but an increase within classes from year to year. (Appendices include descriptive data summaries. Contains 13 references.) (KB)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made

* from the original document. *



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Office of Educational Research and Improvement EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

- Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
- Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

Transition Project -

Observing Early Childhood Classrooms

Sue L. Leibowitz

Alan I. Chates

Salem State College

Nashoba Regional Schools

Bolton, Massachusetts

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

American Educational Research Association Annual Conference

Roundtable Presentation

San Diego, CA

April 1998

O

0







Acknowledgment

The analyses reported here were based on the national core data sets collected for the National Evaluation of the Head Start/Public Schools Early Childhood Transition Demonstration Project, which was designed and implemented by the National Transition Demonstration Consortium. The Consortium comprises Principal Investigators and Project Directors from each of the 31 local sites, Principal Investigators and staff from the Civitan International Research Center, staff from the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, and a National Research Advisory Panel for the project. For a fuller description of the Consortium and its members, see the Interim Report, 1996. The national evaluation is supported by grants from the Head Start Bureau of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families to each of the 31 local demonstration sites, as well as by a coordinating contract (#105-91-1541) to the Civitan International Research Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Table of Contents

Abstract
Introduction
Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum
Formulating a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum
Classroom Resources
Demonstration Schools
Comparison Schools
Method
Research Design
Sample
Instruments
The Assessment Profile for Early Childhood Programs
ADAPT: A Developmentally Appropriate Practice Template
Classroom Observation Procedures
Observer Reliability
Analysis of Data
Results
Assessment Profile
Spring 1993 and Spring 1994
Spring 1995
Spring 1996 and Spring 1997



ADAPT16
Spring 1995
Spring 1996 and Spring 1997
Summary of Results
Discussion
Limitations of the Study
Research Design Meets School Reform
School G - A Comparison-1 School
Demonstration Schools
Conclusion
Appendix A - Assessment Profile Results
Appendix B - ADAPT Results
References



Abstract

The Worcester Public Schools, Worcester, MA received a grant from the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services, to provide services to maintain the early benefits attained by Head Start children. One component of the program is the advancement of a developmentally appropriate curriculum. This study examines the differences between demonstration and comparison classrooms for two cohorts of students during the five year period of program implementation. Two classroom observation instruments were used for observations. From the analysis of data, the study concludes that school classrooms, which received considerable resources to create developmentally appropriate classrooms, and had a principal committed to the philosophy of developmentally appropriate practice, are further advanced in providing a developmentally appropriate environment for children than the schools, which did not receive or fully implement these resources.



Introduction

In October 1991, the Worcester Public Schools, Worcester, MA was awarded a National Head Start-Early Childhood Transition grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, to test the hypothesis that the provision of a continuous program of comprehensive services (including parent involvement, social services, cognitive development, health, and nutrition), starting in kindergarten and continuing through third grade, will maintain and enhance the early benefits attained by Head Start children and their families. One component of the service package in this project is the advancement of a developmentally appropriate curriculum, and considerable resources have been invested in this area. This presentation focuses on the results of these efforts and examines the differences between schools and classrooms, which have served as demonstration and comparison settings for the study, during the five years of program implementation. Two classroom observation instruments, which examine developmental practice, were used for observation purposes. An earlier study (Leibowitz & Chates, 1995) investigated this relationship for the first two years of program implementation, using one observation instrument. It was hypothesized that the Transition demonstration school classrooms were further advanced in providing a developmentally appropriate curriculum to students than the comparison school classrooms. The earlier study found evidence to support this hypothesis. The present study examines this same hypothesis, using two classroom observation instruments and exploring the entire period of project implementation -- five years. This study investigates the effects of investing substantial resources in classrooms in economically impoverished areas and may have further generalizability to other classrooms in similarly impoverished areas.



Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

The idea of a developmentally appropriate curriculum is grounded in a philosophy of education, based on research by Bruner (1960), Chomsky (1972), Dewey (1938), Erikson (1963), Gardner (1983), Kohlberg (1981), and Piaget (1970). This research supports a curriculum with adults interacting with children at each child's existing level of development, using appropriate activities and materials. It also supports a learning environment which is child-centered.

A developmentally appropriate curriculum can be described as a "curriculum that is appropriate for the child's age and all areas of the individual child's development, including educational, physical, emotional, social, cognitive, and communication" (Federal Register, 1991, p. 31819). The National Association for the Education of Young Children (1991) also provides guidelines for providing a developmentally appropriate curriculum from ages 3 to 8.

Formulating a Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

To comply with the Federal guidelines for the Transition Project that required the implementation of a developmentally appropriate curriculum in the respective classrooms of the demonstration schools beginning in September 1992, a curriculum consultant was hired in January 1992 to serve as the facilitator of a process that would lead to the development of a new curriculum for the project schools. A curriculum committee was convened later that January, consisting of forty members including teachers, administrators, a Chapter 1 Head Teacher, an Early Childhood Teacher Trainer, and several parents. A conscious decision was made to write a curriculum, rather than adopt one such as High Scope, so that it would be 'tailor-made' to meet



the needs of the district. From January to August of 1992 the committee, under the direction of the curriculum consultant, completed the Philosophy, Goals, Developmental Characteristics, Math and Literacy sections. Four committees were then developed to write the respective sections of Science, Physical Development, Art & Music, and Social Studies. After field-testing the curriculum for the first full year of the program, the school committee gave their unanimous approval of the curriculum in October 1993.

The formulation and writing of the developmentally appropriate curriculum functioned as a powerful staff development and training endeavor, with the end-products being a curriculum and a group of teachers with a strong investment in the implementation of this curriculum.

Classroom Resources

Demonstration Schools.

In accordance with the specifications for a developmentally appropriate classroom, the Transition demonstration schools were given considerable resources, including training and materials. A faculty/staff development plan was established and implemented based on a survey assessing their needs and interests. During the first two years, monthly in-service training was provided to classroom teachers. An annual allocation of funds was made available to demonstration site teachers to purchase materials that support the developmentally appropriate curriculum.

In addition, the classroom teachers worked in cooperation with the Transition Project

Parent Room staff to assist parents in understanding the classroom environment and the meaning

of a developmentally appropriate curriculum and classroom. This collaboration also became a



means of furthering and reinforcing the faculty development function in relation to developmentally appropriate practice.

Comparison Schools.

The comparison schools in the study did not receive any Transition Project resources.

However, during the 1990's, which encompasses the five years of program implementation, many changes in educational philosophy and school reform, including the trend toward the provision of developmentally appropriate practices in early childhood classrooms, became increasingly popular and widespread. Since resources secured outside of the Transition Project could not be withheld from comparison schools, some underwent considerable reform and received considerable classroom resources during the five years of the study.

Method

Research Design

The original research design for this study included four schools randomly assigned to the demonstration cluster and four schools randomly assigned to the comparison cluster. All schools were Chapter 1 school-wide projects with poverty levels of 75% or greater.

At the time of the proposal for funding for this project, the eight participating schools were approximately equivalent or comparable. The eight schools were then randomly assigned as demonstration and comparison schools. However, beginning in September 1992, two of the original comparison schools changed from typical neighborhood schools to magnet schools. These two schools had an immense investment of resources from sources other than the



Transition Project. Thus, two of the four comparison schools are not comparable to the demonstration schools or to the other two comparison schools. Because of this situation, it became necessary to analyze the data in a different manner than simply looking at differences between the demonstration and comparison school populations. All analysis has, therefore, been done using both a traditional model of demonstration/comparison group differences, as well as using a different approach - a demonstration/comparison-1/comparison-2 model of analyzing group differences. In this presentation, comparison-1 refers to the two comparable comparison schools, and comparison-2 refers to the two comparison schools which received special resources, based on their status as magnet schools.

<u>Sample</u>

The sample in this study consists of the classrooms of two cohorts of children who were followed from kindergarten through grade 3 in the National Head Start-Public School Early Childhood Demonstration Study. Cohort 1 children began kindergarten during Fall 1992 and Cohort 2 children began kindergarten during Fall 1993. Each year all grade level classrooms of Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 children were observed. Thus, classrooms were observed in the eight research schools over the duration of the project as follows: in Spring 1993, 25 kindergarten classes (Cohort 1); in Spring 1994, 23 kindergarten (Cohort 2) and 25 grade 1 (Cohort 1) classes; in Spring 1995, 22 grade 1 (Cohort 2) and 23 grade 2 (Cohort 1) classes; in Spring 1996, 20 grade 2 (Cohort 2) and 21 grade 3 (Cohort 1) classes; in Spring 1997, 20 grade 3 (Cohort 2) classes.



Instruments

At the end of each year of the five years of program implementation (Spring 1993 through Spring 1997) classrooms in the four demonstration and four comparison schools were observed using the <u>Assessment Profile for Early Childhood Programs: Research Version</u> (Abbott-Shim & Sibley, 1992). At the end of the third year of program implementation (Spring 1995), another classroom observation instrument was added - <u>ADAPT: A Developmentally Appropriate Practice Template</u>. (Gottlieb, 1995). Thus, beginning in Spring 1995, two classroom observation instruments were used.

The Assessment Profile for Early Childhood Programs.

The Assessment Profile for Early Childhood Programs: Research Version (Abbott-Shim & Sibley, 1992) includes 87 criteria, organized into five scales: (a) Learning Environment, (b) Scheduling, © Curriculum, (d) Interacting, and (e) Individualizing. Each criterion is scored as "yes", if observed, and "no", if not observed. Data are collected through observation of the classroom, interview with the teacher, and review of documents.

The Assessment Profile for Early Childhood Programs Research Manual (Abbott-Shim, Sibley, & Neel, 1992) provides the following descriptions of each Scale. The Learning Environment Scale focuses on the accessibility of a variety of learning materials to children in the classroom. Variety is assessed across conceptual areas and within each conceptual area. The Scheduling Scale assesses the written plans for classroom scheduling, as well as the implementation of classroom activities. The Curriculum Scale measures the variety of teaching techniques used to facilitate learning and the individualization of learning activities based on the



teacher's assessment of children in the class. It also examines the opportunities for children to guide their own learning and the role of the teacher in fostering multicultural awareness, learning, and appreciation. The Interacting Scale assesses the interactions between the teacher and children. This scale focuses on the teacher's initiation of positive and verbal interactions, responsiveness to children, and the behavior management approach. The Individualizing Scale assesses the teacher's implementation and use of systematic and comprehensive child assessment in planning and organizing learning experiences that match the skill level of each child.

The validity of the Assessment Profile has been established through content validity and criterion validity (Abbott-Shim, Sibley, & Neel, 1992). To establish content validity, determining the degree to which the instrument depicts high quality early childhood classrooms and teaching practices, the authors of the instrument conducted a thorough review of the early childhood/child development literature, and had the instrument reviewed by numerous professionals, including early childhood trainers, program administrators, teachers, resource and referral staff, and professors of early childhood education. The instrument was field-tested in 90 child care centers and was used for program evaluation over a period of ten years. The Assessment Profile was also compared with the Accreditation Criteria of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, which gives some nationally recognized standards for high quality, early childhood, developmentally appropriate practices. There was a 100% match in the criteria between the two measures.

The <u>Assessment Profile</u> has also been used in criterion related validity studies along with The Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, a scale containing 37 items across 7 sub-scales, which has been used to determine the quality of care in early childhood programs. Moderate to



good correlations have been found in these studies, with one study showing a significant overall correlation (r=.74, p=.000).

Reliability of the <u>Assessment Profile</u> has been reported by scale for Classical Measurement Theory Reliability using Cronbach's Alpha and Spearman-Brown corrected splithalves formula, and for Item Response Theory Reliability. The scale reliabilities are high, ranging from .79 to .99.

ADAPT: A Developmentally Appropriate Practice Template.

ADAPT (Gottlieb, 1995) is a measure designed to capture dimensions of developmentally appropriate practices. The instrument rates classrooms on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high) for 19 items, which are organized into three domains: (1) Curriculum and Instruction: Promoting Children's Academic Development, (2) Interaction: Supporting Children's Social and Emotional Development, and (3) Classroom Management: Facilitating Children's Overall Development; and a Classroom Summary of Developmentally Appropriate Practice. Each point along the five point continuum is either additive in nature, based on the assumption that one level is built upon the preceding one, or descriptive, where each successive level assumes a more positive developmentally appropriate stance from the previous one (Gottlieb, 1995). Data are collected by observation simultaneously with the Assessment Profile for Early Childhood Programs.

Classroom Observation Procedures

The classroom observation protocol was organized in such a way that classrooms in a school were observed on the same day on a rotating basis. The classrooms were visited on a 15-



minute rotating cycle for 4 rotations, to get a sampling or "snapshot" of each classroom at different times of the day. Approximately one hour of time was spent in each classroom.

In this study the classroom observations were performed by two observers. During Year 1, both observers were present together in the same classrooms during the same times, and recorded individual responses to the instrument items. The observers then discussed any items in the instrument where there was disagreement. During subsequent years, Observer 1 observed all Cohort 1 classrooms and Observer 2 observed Cohort 2 classrooms, with the exception of the final year, at which time Observer 1 observed all Cohort 2 classrooms.

Observer Reliability

Before the commencement of data gathering for this study, the two observers worked together in training/piloting situations and established strong reliability levels (r > .90). During Year 1, when the observers worked together in all classrooms, there was a high level of reliability in the observations (r = .96).

Analysis of Data

The results of the <u>Assessment Profile for Early Childhood Programs</u> were analyzed by creating an individual scale score for each of the five scales on the instrument: Learning Environment, Scheduling, Curriculum, Interacting, and Individualizing, and by creating a total composite score including all five scales. Beginning in Spring 1995, one additional scale 'Availability of Learning Materials' was added to the instrument.



The results of <u>ADAPT: A Developmentally Appropriate Practice Template</u> were analyzed by creating an individual scale score for each of the three dimensions of the instrument:

Curriculum and Instruction, Interaction, and Classroom Management. The Classroom Summary of Developmentally Appropriate Practice, which reflects the existence of concrete evidence of developmentally appropriate practices, is reported. A Total Composite score, including the three dimension scores and the summary score, was also created.

Scale mean and standard deviation scores were calculated, and Analysis of Variance was performed by demonstration/comparison-1/comparison-2 for all scales/dimensions on both instruments. Multiple comparison tests using Tukey (p of .05) and Scheffe (p of .01) tests were also used.

Results

Assessment Profile

The mean scores on the <u>Assessment Profile for Early Childhood Classrooms</u> from Spring 1993 through Spring 1997 are shown in Table 1 (A) in Appendix A. School A, School B, School C, and School D are demonstration schools. School E and School G are comparison-1 schools. School F and School H are comparison-2 schools.

Spring 1993 and Spring 1994.

As previously reported (Leibowitz & Chates, 1995), during 1993 the scores for the Total Composite, the Learning Environment Scale, and the Curriculum Scale were in the predicted direction, with statistically significant differences (p < .05 or p < .01) found between



demonstration school classrooms and comparison-1 school classrooms, as well as between comparison-2 school classrooms and comparison-1 school classrooms. In Spring 1994, the same scales were in the predicted direction, with demonstration and comparison-2 school classroom scoring higher than the comparison-1 school classrooms. However, in 1994, the differences were not statistically significant. The authors concluded at that time that there was some evidence that the focused investment of resources in school classrooms reflects in the individual classroom curriculum approach, and encourages a more developmentally appropriate classroom environment. However, it was possible that the necessity of separating the comparison group into comparison-1 and comparison-2 groups, generated very small n's, and created the predicament of few statistically significant differences.

Spring 1995.

Analysis of the <u>Assessment Profile</u> for Cohort 1 in Spring 1995 was performed using 23 second grade classrooms in the eight demonstration and comparison schools. Table 2 (A) shows the results of the Analysis of Variance and Multiple Comparison Tests for this group..

Results of this data show that statistically significant differences (p < .05 or p < .01) were found between the comparison-1 and comparison-2 classrooms on the Curriculum Scale, and between demonstration and comparison-2 classrooms on the Individualizing Scale. On both the Learning Environment Scale and the Total Composite Score, demonstration and comparison-2 classrooms scored higher than comparison-1 classrooms, however, statistically significant differences were not found.



Analysis of the <u>Assessment Profile</u> for Cohort 2 in Spring 1995 was performed using 22 first grade classrooms in the demonstration and comparison schools. Table 3 (A) shows the results of the Analysis of Variance and Multiple Comparison Tests.

Results of this analysis show that statistically significant differences were found between demonstration and comparison-1 classrooms, as well as between comparison-2 and comparison-1 classrooms on the Total Composite Score, the Learning Environment Scale, and the Curriculum Scale. Statistically significant differences were also found between demonstration and comparison-1 classrooms on the Interacting Scale, and between comparison-1 and comparison-2 classrooms on the Scheduling Scale and Individualizing Scale.

Spring 1996 and Spring 1997.

In 1996 and 1997, there was only one statistically significant difference (p < .05) on the Availability of Learning Materials Scale between comparison-1 and comparison-2 classrooms. Otherwise, there were no statistically significant differences (p < .05 or p < .01) among demonstration, comparison-1, or comparison-2 classrooms on any of the scales or the total composite score.

ADAPT

Spring 1995.

Spring 1995 was the first data collection point using <u>ADAPT: A Developmentally</u>

<u>Appropriate Practice Template</u>. The results of classroom observations from Spring 1995 through

Spring 1997 using this instrument are shown in Table 1 (B) in Appendix B. The results are



shown for each scale by year. This table presents the scale scores by school, as well as by demonstration, comparison-1, and comparison-2 groups. Analysis of <u>ADAPT</u> in Spring 1995 was performed using 45 first and second grade classrooms in the eight demonstration and comparison schools. Table 2 (B) shows the results of the Analysis of Variance and Multiple Comparison Tests.

There are statistically significant differences (p < .05 or p < .01) in the predicted direction for all scales, for the classroom summary score, and for the total composite score between demonstration and comparison-1 classrooms, as well as between comparison-2 and comparison-1 classrooms.

Spring 1996 and Spring 1997.

For both Spring 1996 and Spring 1997, there are no statistically significant differences (p < .05 or p < .01) among demonstration, comparison-1, and comparison-2 classrooms. However, it is significant to note the individual school scores in Table 1 (B) in two areas. First, in two schools, School B (demonstration) and School H (comparison-2), classrooms consistently present much higher scores than those in the other schools. Second, School G (comparison-1) classrooms have jumped considerably higher in performance in all areas from 1995 to 1996, and they remain so for 1997.

Summary of Results

From the results over five years of data collection using the two instruments, there emerge three distinct phases. The first phase spans the first two years of data collection, 1993



and 1994. During this phase, there were a considerable number of statistically significant differences among the demonstration, comparison-1, and comparison-2 groups. The second phase focuses around the data collection in Spring 1995. During this time, on The Assessment Profile there were some differences in the expected direction, however, most were not statistically significant, perhaps due to small n's. On ADAPT there were statistically significant differences between demonstration and comparison-1 classrooms, as well as between comparison-2 and comparison-1 classrooms -- as predicted. These results provide evidence to support the hypothesis that the schools which invest greater resources to create developmentally appropriate classrooms are further advanced in providing a developmentally appropriate environment for these children, than the comparison schools which did not receive these resources. The third phase which emerges from the data focuses around the final two years of data collection, 1996 and 1997. During these two years, there were essentially no statistically significant differences among demonstration, comparison-1, and comparison-2 classrooms.

The <u>Assessment Profile</u> results, which span four years for each of the two cohorts, show a general decrease in the use of developmentally appropriate practices over the four years periods. Developmentally appropriate practices are highest in kindergarten and decrease beginning in Grade 1. However, the data also indicate a general increase within classes from year to year. Thus, Grade 1 in 1995 is more advanced in providing students with a developmentally appropriate curriculum than Grade 1 in 1994.



Discussion

Limitations of the Study

The major limitation of the study is the small sample size, particularly in comparison-1 and comparison-2 groups. This is a disadvantage when performing Analysis of Variance tests on the data. With a small sample size, differences between groups often do not appear to be statistically significant. In some of the data presented, the trends of difference between group means do not show statistical significance. This may be due, in part, to the small number of classrooms being compared.

Another limitation of the study is the inability to control: (1) the input of resources into the comparison schools, including comparison-1 schools, and (2) the degree to which programs were implemented in demonstration schools.

Research Design Meets School Reform

The comparison schools in this study, as described earlier, are of two types. At the beginning of the study, the two comparison-1 schools were equivalent or comparable to the demonstration schools, however, they did not receive Transition Project services, or many other services. Thus, they were able to serve as real comparison schools. Comparison-2 schools were determined to be equivalent or comparable at the time of random assignment, however, by the first year of program implementation became magnet schools - one an Accelerated Learning Lab and the other a Science and Technology magnet. Both of these schools received considerable resources in terms of materials, teacher training, and supervision, with considerable focus toward the provision of a developmentally appropriate curriculum, consistent with many aspects of



elementary school reform. The Accelerated Learning Lab (School H), in particular, was affiliated with Clark University, as a lab school and received huge investments of resources.

Thus, these schools can not be considered comparison schools in the same way that comparison-1 schools serve this function.

School G - A Comparison-1 School.

During the five years of the study, many changes in educational philosophy and school reform, including the provision of developmentally appropriate practices in early childhood classrooms, became increasingly popular and widespread. Since services secured outside of the Transition Project could not be withheld from comparison schools, one Comparison-1 school, School G, underwent considerable reform during the five years of the study. Beginning in Fall 1995 (midway through the study), a new principal brought innovative ideas and resources, and a number of different reforms were instituted. Among the reforms was the promotion of developmentally appropriate practices in classrooms. This change showed in the Spring 1996 and Spring 1997 data, with this school drastically raising its scores from the previous years.

The original research design comparing demonstration and comparison schools was changed earlier in the study to meet the reality of the change in resources of two comparison schools, which became the comparison-2 schools. Five years later, some new realities need to be evaluated in relation to the research design. First, the strong promotion of a developmentally appropriate curriculum in a comparison-1 school in the middle of the study confounds the research design using the comparison-1/comparison-2 grouping. School G lost many of the characteristics of a comparison-1 school and received some resources similar to the



demonstration schools. This change of focus and resources in School G changes its status as a comparison-1 school. As a result, the configuration of the research design, and the interpretation of the data are threatened.

Demonstration Schools.

Although the demonstration schools were given the training, resources, and support from the Transition Project described earlier, the degree to which these resources were accessed and incorporated into each school's environment and instructional methodology varied considerably among the four schools. Thus, there is also some confounding of the research design in these schools. At School A, the principal never understood or embraced a developmentally appropriate curriculum. School B fully embraced the developmental curriculum, was previously focused on its implementation, and was able to constructively utilize all training and resources that were offered. School C had five principals during the span of the project and, with the exception of one principal, limited commitment to promoting a developmentally appropriate curriculum. School D's principal during the first three years of the study did not want the project in that school. The principal for the last two years did embrace the project, but encountered a faculty largely uncommitted to developmentally appropriate practices.

Conclusion

The original hypothesis in the study states that the Transition demonstration school classrooms are further advanced in providing a developmentally appropriate curriculum to students than the comparison school classrooms, that the infusion of training, resources, and



support will allow the schools to incorporate more developmentally appropriate practices. The results of the study during the first three years, 1993-1995, provide evidence through the configuration of comparison-1 and comparison-2 schools to support the hypothesis that schools receiving more resources will provide classroom environments that are more developmentally appropriate. The design contained two comparison-1 schools with few resources, and two comparison-2 schools, which received many resources. Results showed similar levels of developmentally appropriate practices in both demonstration and comparison-2 schools, with comparison-1 schools showing fewer developmentally appropriate practices than either of the other two groups. Thus, in the first three years of the study there is considerable evidence to support the original hypothesis. A closer look at the last two years of the study, 1996 and 1997, by individual schools, indicates that the schools receiving the most input of resources for the duration of the study, as well as those most committed to the philosophy of developmentally appropriate practice, were further advanced in providing students with a developmentally appropriate curriculum, than those receiving resources, but not necessarily utilizing them or being highly committed to implementing the curriculum. The schools which have both received the resources and had a consistently high commitment, include School B (a demonstration school) and School H (a comparison-2 school). Although School G (a comparison-1 school) raised its scores considerably during the last two years of the study, they did not reach the levels of School B and School H.

Thus, it can be concluded from this study that, although training and resources are necessary and extremely important for the support of a developmentally appropriate curriculum, they are not sufficient. A commitment to the philosophy of developmentally appropriate practice



on the part of the school principal is equally critical to the success in providing students with a developmentally appropriate curriculum.



APPENDIX A

Longitudinal Data

Assessment Profile for Early Childhood Classrooms



Table 1 Longitudinal Data - Assessment Profile

Cohorts 1 & 2 - S '93-S '97

Means

Scale	Group		Cohe	ort 1			Coho	ort 2	
_		S '93	S '94	S '95	S '96	S '94	S '95	S '96	S '97
Total		K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Composite	Entire Population	73.64	69.30	65.35	59.95	86.00	69.37	64.38	65.93
	Demonstration	76.58	73.08	66.22	56.20	78.45	86.67	70.13	68.17
	Comparison-1	47.80	46.80	50.00	56.50	83.00	42.40	58.50	62.75
,	Comparison-2	85.38	80.50	78.75	68.50	90.57	73.25	58.67	65.80
Learning	Entire Population	31.00	25.92	9.95	9.71	38.35	11.64	10.47	10.05
Environment	Demonstration	34.25	28.67	10.89	8.90	39.18	13.44	12.44	10.33
	Comparison-1	12.40	11.00	3.75	10.60	32.20	4.40	8.67	10.20
	Comparison-2	37.75	31.13	12.00	10.33	41.43	14.13	8.71	9.50
						_	<u></u>	_	_
Scheduling	Entire Population	5.68	6.35	11.96	6.10	6.04	12.40	6.05	6.10
	Demonstration	5.00	7.00	12.45	6.10	4.82	13.57	5.89	6.11
	Comparison-1	8.60	6.60	11.50	6.00	10.20	12.00	6.00	6.00
	Comparison-2	4.87	4.83	11.50	6.17	5.00	11.63	6.25	6.17
Curriculum	Entire Population	13.80	14.32	16.40	16.60	14.91	17.00	17.17	18.22
	Demonstration	14.67	15.00	16.09	15.10	15.00	21.89	17.75	16.89
	Comparison-1	9.00	10.80	11.25	15.00	13.40	8.40	16.50	17.75
	Comparison-2	15.50	15.00	19.86	20.17	15.86	16.88	16.75	21.00
								<u> </u>	



Table 1 Continued...

Longitudinal Data - Assessment Profile

Cohorts 1 & 2 - S '93-S '97

Means

1720110									
Scale	Group	-	Cohort 1			_	Coho	ort 2	
		S '93	S '94	S '95	S '96	S '94	S '95	S '96	S '97
Interacting		K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
	Entire Population	11.56	12.04	14.48	15.62	12.78	14.18	16.25	16.29
	Demonstration	11.83	12.00	13.82	14.30	12.09	17.78	15.78	15.83
	Comparison-1	9.00	10.80	13.50	16.60	13.40	7.80	18.00	17.80
	Comparison-2	12.75	12.88	15.88	17.00	13.57	14.13	16.13	15.50
Individualizing	ndividualizing Entire Population		11.56	10.78	11.24	13.91	12.77	13.40	11.35
į	Demonstration	10.83	10.42	9.27	10.60	13.36	13.56	13.22	11.44
	Comparison-1	8.80	7.60	10.00	11.40	14.00	9.00	15.00	11.60
	Comparison-2	14.50	15.75	13.25	12.17	14.71	14.25	13.00	11.00
Availability	Entire Population			1.70	1.67		1.85	2.79	1.75
of	Demonstration			1.73	1.20		2.13	4.00	1.66
Learning	Comparison-1			0.00	1.40		0.80	2.33	1.80
	Comparison-2			3.00	2.67		2.25	1.43	1.83
Materials									



<u>Table 2</u> (A)

Assessment Profile Spring 1995 - Cohort 1 Levels of Significance of Analysis of Variance BY SCALE SCORE

	<u>Demonstration</u>	Comparison-1	Comparison-2
Total Composite Score Demonstration Comparison-1 Comparison-2	no statis	stically significan	at differences
Learning Environment Demonstration Comparison-1 Comparison-2	no statis	stically significan	t differences
Scheduling Demonstration Comparison-1 Comparison-2	no statis	stically significan	t differences
Curriculum Demonstration Comparison-1 Comparison-2	; ;		p < .05
Interacting Demonstration Comparison-1 Comparison-2	no statis	stically significan	nt differences
Individualizing Demonstration Comparison-1 Comparison-2	p < .01		
Availability of Learning Materials Demonstration Comparison-1 Comparison-2	no statis	stically significar	nt differences



<u>Table 3</u> (A)

Assessment Profile Cohort 2 - Spring 1995 Levels of Significance of Analysis of Variance BY SCALE SCORE

	Demonstration	Comparison-1	Comparison-2			
Total Composite Score						
Demonstration						
Comparison-1	p < .01		p < .01			
Comparison-2						
Learning Environment						
Demonstration						
Comparison-1						
Comparison-2	p < .01		p < .01			
Scheduling						
Demonstration			p < .05			
Comparison-1						
Comparison-2						
Curriculum						
Demonstration						
Comparison-1	p < .01		p < .05			
Comparison-2						
Interacting						
Demonstration	p < .01					
Comparison-1						
Comparison-2						
Individualizing						
Demonstration						
Comparison-1			p < .05			
Comparison-2						
Availability of Learning Materials Demonstration Comparison-1 Comparison-2	no statistically s	no statistically significant differences				



APPENDIX B

Longitudinal Data

ADAPT: A Developmentally Appropriate Practice Template



Table 1 (B) Longitudinal Data - ADAPT Cohorts 1 & 2 - S '95-S '97 Means							
Scale	School Cohorts 1 and Cohort 2 - Combined						
		S '95	S '96	S '97			
Curriculum &		Cohort 1: Grade 2 Cohort 2: Grade 1	Cohort 1: Grade 3 Cohort 2: Grade 2	Cohort 2: Grade 3			
Instruction:	Entire Population	15.67	14.07	16.20			
Promoting Children's							
Academic Development	School A	11.60	13.40	12.67			
Development	School B	22.83	19.80	24.00			
	School C	15.40	10.40	12.50			
	School D	13.00	8.33	14.00			
	School E	10.80	12.25	13.50			
	School F	15.75	13.30	16.25			
	School G	9.75	16.60	16.67			
	School H	24.75	17.25	21.50			
	,	t					
ļ	Demonstration	16.20	13.50	15.44			
	Comparison-1	10.33	14.67	15.40			
	Comparison-2	18.00	14.43	18.00			



Table 1 (B) Continued... Longitudinal Data - ADAPT Cohorts 1 & 2 - S '95-S '97 Means

Scale	School	Cohorts 1 and Cohort 2 - Combined				
	,	S '95	S '96	S '97		
Interaction:		Cohort 1: Grade 2 Cohort 2: Grade 1	Cohort 1: Grade 3 Cohort 2: Grade 2	Cohort 2: Grade 3		
Supporting Children's	Entire Population	16.58	16.33	16.95		
Social and Emotional						
Development	School A	11.80	14.40	13.00		
	School B	25.17	23.60	29.00		
	School C	13.40	10.00	13.00		
Ì	School D	16.00	10.75	13.50		
	School E	11.80	14.50	11.00		
	School F	16.92	16.40	16.50		
	School G	9.00	19.40	18.67		
	School H .	26.75	21.00	22.50		
	Demonstration	17.05	14.89	16.67		
	Comparison-1	10.56	17.22	15.60		
	Comparison-2	19.38	17.71	18.50		



Table 1 (B) Continued.. Longitudinal Data - ADAPT Cohorts 1 & 2 - S '95-S '97 Means

Scale School Cohorts 1 and Cohort 2 - Combined						
Scale	School	Cohor	ts I and Conort 2 - Con	noinea		
		S '95	S '96	S '97		
Classroom Management		Cohort 1: Grade 2 Cohort 2: Grade 1	Cohort 1: Grade 3 Cohort 2: Grade 2	Cohort 2: Grade 3		
Facilitating Children's Overall	Entire Population	16.18	14.52	15.95		
Development	School A	11.20	12.80	10.33		
	School B	26.83	22.20	27.00		
	School C	15.00	8.80	10.00		
	School D	16.00	9.00	15.00		
	School E	10.20	10.25	9.50		
	School F	15.08	14.20	16.00		
	School G	8.50	17.80	18.33		
	School H	26.50	20.75	23.00		
	•	ı,				
	Demonstration	17.80	13.42	15.00		
	Comparison-1	9.44	14.44	14.80		
	Comparison-2	17.94	16.07	18.33		
			·			



Table 1 (B) Continued... Longitudinal Data - ADAPT Cohorts 1 & 2 - S '95-S '97 Means

<u> </u>	ivieuns							
Scale	School	Cohorts 1 and Cohort 2 - Combined						
		S '95	S '96	S '97				
Classroom Summary		Cohort 1: Grade 2 Cohort 2: Grade 1	Cohort 1: Grade 3 Cohort 2: Grade 2	Cohort 2: Grade 3				
of	Entire Population	2.42	2.33	2.90				
Develop- mentally								
Appropriate Practice	School A	1.60	2.20	1.67				
	School B	3.83	3.40	5.00				
	School C	2.00	1.20	2.00				
	School D	2.50	1.25	3.00				
	School E	1.20	1.50	2.00				
	School F	2.58	2.50	2.75				
	School G	1.00	2.80	3.33				
	School H	4.25	3.50	4.00				
		1	3333333333					
	Demonstration	2.55	2.05	2.78				
	Comparison-1	1.11	2.22	2.80				
	Comparison-2	3.00	2.78	3.17				
_								



Table 1 (B) Continued... Longitudinal Data - ADAPT Cohorts 1 & 2 - S '95-S '97 Means

Scale	School	Cohor	ts 1 and Cohort 2 - Con	nbined
		S '95	S '96	S '97
Total:		Cohort 1: Grade 2 Cohort 2: Grade 1	Cohort 1: Grade 3 Cohort 2: Grade 2	Cohort 2: Grade 3
All Scales	Entire Population	50.84	45.12	49.10
	School A	36.20	40.60	36.00
	School B	78.67	65.60	80.00
	School C	45.80	29.20	35.50
	School D	47.50	27.00	42.50
•	School E	34.00	37.00	34.00
	School F	50.33	43.90	48.75
	School G	28.25	53.80	53.67
	School H	82.25	59.00	67.00
		,		
	Demonstration	53.60	42.11	47.11
	Comparison-1	31.44	46.33	45.80
,	Comparison-2	58.31	48.21	54.83



Table 2 (B)

ADAPT: A Developmentally Appropriate Practice Template Spring 1995 - Cohorts 1 and 2 Levels of Significance of Analysis of Variance BY SCALE SCORE

	Demonstration Co	omparison-1	Comparison-2
Curriculum and Instruction			
Demonstration			
Comparison-1	p < .05		p < .01
Comparison-2			
Interaction			
			•
Demonstration			
Comparison-1	p < .05		p < .01
Comparison-2			
Classroom Management			
Demonstration	, 		
Comparison-1	[.] p < .01		p < .01
Comparison-2			
Classroom Summary of Developmen	tally Appropriate Pra	actice	
Demonstration			
Comparison-1	p < .01		p < .01
Comparison-2			
Total All Scales			
Demonstration			
Comparison-1	p < .05		p < .01
Comparison-2			



References

Abbott-Shim, M. & Sibley, A. (1992). <u>Assessment Profile for Early Childhood Programs:</u>

Research Version. Atlanta, GA: Quality Assist, Inc.

Abbott-Shim, M., Sibley, A., & Neel, J. (1992). <u>Assessment Profile for Early Childhood</u>

<u>Programs Research Manual</u>. Atlanta, GA: Quality Assist, Inc.

Bruner, J. (1960). The Process of Education. New York: Vintage Books.

Chomsky, N. (1972). Language and mind. New York: Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich.

Dewey, J. (1939). Experience & Education. New York: Collier Books.

Erikson, E. (1963). Childhood and society. New York: Norton.

Federal Register. (July 11, 1991). Part V. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families; Availability of FY 1991 Funds and Request for Applications; Head Start/Public School Early Childhood Transition Demonstration Projects; Notice. Vol 56, No. 133.

Gardner, H. (1983). Frames of mind: The theory of multiple intelligences. New York: Basic Books.

Gottlieb. M. (1995). <u>ADAPT: A Developmentally Appropriate Practice Template</u>. Birmingham, AL: Civitan International Research Center, University of Alabama.

Guidelines for Appropriate Curriculum Content and Assessment in Programs Serving

Children Ages 3 Through 8 - A Position Statement of the National Association for the Education
of Young Children and the National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State

Departments of Education. Adopted November 1990. (1991). Young Children, 21-37.



Kohlberg, L. (1981). <u>The Philosophy of Moral Development</u>. (Essays on Moral Development, Vol. 1). San Francisco: Harper & Row, Publishers.

Leibowitz, S.L. & Chates, A.I. (1995, April). Transition Project - Early Childhood

Classrooms. Roundtable session presented at the American Educational Research Association

Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Piaget, J. (1970). Piaget's Theory. In P.H. Mussen (Ed.), <u>Carmichaels's manual of child</u> <u>psychology</u> (Vol. 1, 3rd ed.). New York: Wiley.





U.S. Department of Education

Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)
National Library of Education (NLE)
Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)



REPRODUCTION RELEASE

(Specific Document)

		(Specific Document)		
I. DOCL	JMENT IDENTIFICATION	<u> </u>		
	•		ldhood Classrooms	
Author(s):	Sue L. Leibowitz	Z + Alan I. Chates		
Corporate	Source:		Publication Date:	
	Salem State Col	lege	April 1998	
II. REP	RODUCTION RELEASE	•	<u> </u>	
monthly ab and electro	stract journal of the ERIC system, <i>Re</i> onic media, and sold through the ER	esources in Education (RIE), are usually	rest to the educational community, documents announced in t y made available to users in microfiche, reproduced paper co IDRS). Credit is given to the source of each document, and	DV.
If perm of the page		eminate the identified document, please (CHECK ONE of the following three options and sign at the bott	om
The sample sticker shown below will be affixed to all Level 1 documents		The sample sticker shown below wi affixed to all Level 2A document		
PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY		PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL MICROFICHE, AND IN ELECTRONIC FOR ERIC COLLECTION SUBSCRIBE HAS BEEN GRANTED BY	AND L IN PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND C MEDIA DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED B	Y
<u>sample</u>		Sample	sample	
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)		TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOUL INFORMATION CENTER (ER		
1		2A	2B	
Level 1		Level 2A	Level 2B	
Check here for Level 1 release, permitting reproduction and dissemination in microfiche or other ERIC archivel media (e.g., electronic) and paper copy.		Check here for Level 2A release, permitting and dissemination in microfiche and in elector for ERIC archival collection subscribe	ctronic media reproduction and dissemination in microfiche only	
0		iments will be processed as indicated provided repr reproduce is granted, but no box is checked, docur		
	as indicated above. Reproductión fi contractors requires permission from a	rom the ERIC microfiche or electronic i	clusive permission to reproduce and disseminate this docume media by persons other than ERIC amployees and its syste for non-profit reproduction by libraries and other service agenc	em
Sign Signature: The Lei May Y			Printed Name/Position/Title: Sue Lei bowitz	
∬nere,→ • please	Organization/Address: Salem State College	, Salem, MA 01970	Telephone: FAX: +13-594-9759	_
	Salem State College	, salem, 1114 01770	E-Mail Address: 5-Le bowitz & forma . Date: 5/13/98	_

wsc.mass.edu



Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation

University of Maryland 1129 Shriver Laboratory College Park, MD 20742-5701

> Tel: (800) 464-3742 (301) 405-7449 FAX: (301) 405-8134

ericae@ericae.net http://ericae.net

March 20, 1998

Dear AERA Presenter,

Congratulations on being a presenter at AERA¹. The ERIC Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation invites you to contribute to the ERIC database by providing us with a printed copy of your presentation.

Abstracts of papers accepted by ERIC appear in *Resources in Education (RIE)* and are announced to over 5,000 organizations. The inclusion of your work makes it readily available to other researchers, provides a permanent archive, and enhances the quality of *RIE*. Abstracts of your contribution will be accessible through the printed and electronic versions of *RIE*. The paper will be available through the microfiche collections that are housed at libraries around the world and through the ERIC Document Reproduction Service.

We are gathering all the papers from the AERA Conference. We will route your paper to the appropriate clearinghouse. You will be notified if your paper meets ERIC's criteria for inclusion in *RIE*: contribution to education, timeliness, relevance, methodology, effectiveness of presentation, and reproduction quality. You can track our processing of your paper at http://ericae.net.

Please sign the Reproduction Release Form on the back of this letter and include it with two copies of your paper. The Release Form gives ERIC permission to make and distribute copies of your paper. It does not preclude you from publishing your work. You can drop off the copies of your paper and Reproduction Release Form at the ERIC booth (424) or mail to our attention at the address below. Please feel free to copy the form for future or additional submissions.

Mail to:

AERA 1998/ERIC Acquisitions

University of Maryland 1129 Shriver Laboratory College Park, MD 20742

This year ERIC/AE is making a **Searchable Conference Program** available on the AERA web page (http://aera.net). Check it out!

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Rudner, Ph.D.

Director, ERIC/AE

¹If you are an AERA chair or discussant, please save this form for future use.



